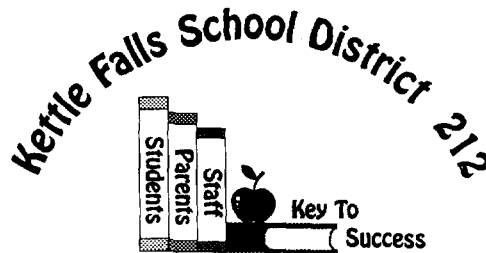


District (509) 738-6625
FAX (509) 738-6375
Bus Garage (509) 738-6825



96-45
Elementary (509) 738-6725
Middle School (509) 738-6014
High School (509) 738-6388

P.O. Box 300 • Kettle Falls, WA 99141-0300

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

20 March 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We write in support of meaningful discounts on telecommunications services for schools and libraries so that every school child and life-long learner can have access to the world of information technology. The Telecommunications Act, through its Universal Service Fund provisions, mandates the development of special discount rates for all schools and libraries so that they can secure services at affordable prices.

There is no doubt that advanced telecommunications services are important to improving learning, sparking the imagination and leveling the playing field for all of our nation's people. Affordable access to technology in all classrooms and libraries will assure that our children and life-long learners can connect with the technology they would need to compete in today's and tomorrow's workforce. Advanced telecommunications services in the classroom will also create informed and skilled consumers of new technology well into the 21st century.

Our school district values internet connectivity so much that we borrowed money to wire all of our schools. Today, the internet is an integral research tool for art, English, social studies, and vocational classes. Because of the education cuts in federal and state funding, we're never sure if we'll be able to continue to subscribe to this incomparable technology. The telecommunications act would remedy that.

Last November, the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service sent to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) a set of recommendations for implementing the Universal Service Fund provisions related to schools and libraries.

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These recommendations would give our learning institutions significant discounts on all services that are commercially available, with deeper discounts for those schools and libraries least able to pay and more expensive to service. All schools would get discounts on connections to classrooms and Internet connectivity, both of which are essential to providing the most advanced learning opportunities to the greatest number of students.

We urge your support for the Joint Board's recommendations. Taken as a whole, they will provide affordable discounts for a full range of services, and give schools and libraries flexibility in choosing the services needed to meet each community's diverse needs. Most importantly, these provisions, if adopted by the FCC, will make advanced technology for learning available to all Americans.

Sincerely,

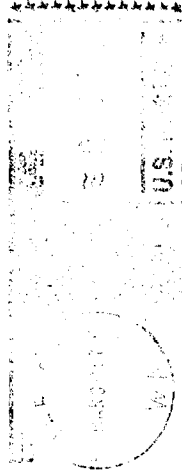
Tim Durnell
Marty Enger
Brian Golphene
Stephanie Esvelt
Cindi Meinhold
Jeri Ginnman
Gerald L. Allen
Kathleen M. Goodnight
Dana Bonstetter
Patrick H. Callahan
Judith Desautels
Allen Noble
Jonathan H. Sault

Janet E. Bonstetter
Edward W. Schmitz
Greg R. Goodnight
Dawaine A. Shumaker

Kettle Falls School District 212



P.O. Box 300 • Kettle Falls, WA 99141-0300



STONY 552 DEC 21 1997 03/31/97

The Honorable Reed Hunt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M. St. NW, Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20054





TERRY E. BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR

IOWA UTILITIES BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

March 27, 1997

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APR 3 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W., Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

RE: FCC Docket No. 96-45—Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service

We are writing to ask your support for modification of the Joint Board's transitional recommendation for rural telephone companies.

The Federal-State Joint Board recommends freezing federal universal service support at past investment levels on a per line basis for rural telephone companies. Allowing the freeze will, in effect, forestall universal service goals in rural states. It will remove an incentive for rural telephone companies to invest in new infrastructure. This would require significant additional investment on a per customer basis, and without additional funding would result in rate increases in order for these rural companies to remain financially viable.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 requires sufficient high-cost support to allow just, reasonable, and affordable rates. It also provides for reasonable comparable rates and services for rural and urban customers and nationwide information access. By freezing support at past investment for these high-cost rural states, there will develop a disparate situation between the information haves and have-nots. Lack of federal support for second lines to residences will increase the costs for access to the Internet for rural users. Telecommunications services are a vital incentive for business and individuals to locate or remain in rural states. These services should be available and at reasonable prices.

There are 154 independent rural local exchange companies providing service to rural Iowans. The total access lines for these rural companies is 187,009. That results in 1,213 average access lines per company.

The FCC has recently approved the sale of 23 exchanges in rural Iowa. In hearings before the Board, the buyers of these exchanges made commitments for facilities upgrades to their new customers. The proposed transition does not send the proper message. It states that support is based on past investment, and there will be no

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The Honorable Reed Hundt

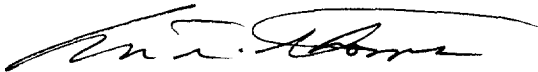
March 27, 1997

Page 2

reward for replacing outdated facilities. It serves as a disincentive to the new owners.

Support for rural telephone companies and their rural customers is critical to the future of telecommunications and economic development in rural Iowa. We urge you to adopt the plan proposed by four national telecommunications trade associations, United States Telephone Association, the National Rural Telecom Association, the National Telephone Cooperative Association, and the Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telecommunications Companies. The trade associations' plan would allow rural telephone companies to invest in the infrastructure with the assurance that high-cost areas will receive sufficient support. Without continued support, many rural area customers will be relegated to the existing infrastructure and to the category of information have-nots.

Sincerely,



Allan T. Thoms, Chairperson



Nancy S. Boyd, Board Member



Emmitt J. George, Jr., Board Member

gb

FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

MITCHELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
1819 19th Avenue
Mitchell NE 69357-1199

DOCKETED

MAIL

Voice: 308/623-1707
Fax: 308/623-1330

SEND TO: <i>The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman</i>	From: <i>Don Wagner, Superintendent</i>
Attention:	Date: <i>4-2-1997</i>
Fax Number: <i>1-202-418-2801</i>	Time:

☐ Urgent! ☐ Reply ASAP ☐ Comments? ☐ Please Review ☐ For your information

Total pages, including cover sheet: *2*

COMMENTS:

*Letter Regarding Telecommunications
Act.*

96-45

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Mitchell Public Schools

JR-SR HIGH SCHOOL
1819 19TH AVENUE
(308) 623-2235
FAX (308) 623-1330
KENT HALLEY, PRINCIPAL

MITCHELL NE 69357
DON WAGNER, SUPERINTENDENT
(308) 623-1707

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
1439 13TH AVENUE
(308) 623-2828
FAX (308) 623-1890
BARRY LIMOGES, PRINCIPAL

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington DC 20554

RECEIVED**APR 3 1997**Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Honorable Reed Hundt


As a superintendent of a rural, Western Nebraska school, our distance from major population areas here has seriously limited the access our students have to many opportunities that are available to students in less isolated areas. The Internet and related electronic communication sources have opened many doors to educational success our students have never had.

The Telecommunications Act and Federal-State Joint Board decision will provide those opportunities for our students at costs much more affordable. Nebraska schools are facing severe budget cuts due to property tax limit reductions handed to us by our state legislature. A discounted rate for schools would be very valuable as we try to meet the needs of our students and still reduce our budgets.

I urge you and the other members of the Federal Communications Commission to strongly support the Joint Board's discount plan for the schools of not only Nebraska, but the nation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely



Don Wagner
Superintendent of Schools

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SUPERINTENDENT
Joe Reinert

PRINCIPAL
Charles Evans

COUNSELOR
Ron Green

ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR
Lin Schluter

SECRETARY
Jackie Yound

**EXETER PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

P.O. Box 139 - 318 So. River Ave.
EXETER, NEBRASKA 68351-0139

Telephone (402) 266-5911
Fax (402) 266-4811

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Chris Manning
John Miller
Brent Moore
Pete Oldhoeft
Bob Ruhl
Alan Songster

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4/2/97

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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APR 3 1997
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt,

On behalf of the Exeter Public School District of Exeter Nebraska, I thank you for your work in ensuring that school districts have cost effective access to the information superhighway. We are a small district in rural Nebraska and the funding from the Telecommunication Act is vital in insuring our continued service.

The Telecommunication Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision to assist in funding connection to the Internet and distance learning is vital to our plans to bring services directly into the classroom. In the near future the Exeter Public Schools plans to complete Internet connection to every classroom and the installation of a distance learning classroom. Please insure that the internal classroom connection is part of the plan as well as the going cost of maintaining service to a distance learning classroom.

We need discounts for telecommunication services. Please urge the FCC to completely support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joseph V. Reinert, Superintendent
Exeter Public Schools

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96-45



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700 South Salisbury Street
PO Box 27347
Raleigh, NC 27611-7347

North Carolina Association of Educators, Inc.

(919) 832-3000
1-800-662-7924

President
Cecil S. Banks
President-Elect
Joyce H. Elliott
Executive Director
John I. Wilson
Associate Executive
Director
William T. Newkirk, Sr.

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April 2, 1997

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APR 3 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am the Associate Executive Director of the North Carolina Association of Educators, located in Raleigh, North Carolina. We represent over 70,000 members, the majority of whom are elementary and secondary classroom teachers.

I am writing to ask for your continued support and bold action in bringing to reality, the access of the Information Highway for schools and libraries at affordable rates. There are those who would settle for our elementary and secondary schools to remain in the "dark ages" when it comes to technology. Yet, these same people complain about the caliber of students graduating from our high schools, and are less than enthusiastic in supporting our public schools.

I don't have to tell you how important our public schools are to the economic future and well-being of our country, nor the importance of your work on the FCC. I do urge you and the other Commission members however, to fully support the Joint Board's recommendations and discount plan for universal service for schools and libraries. The competitive future of the next generation rests upon your shoulders.

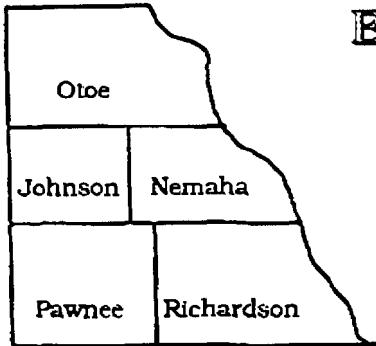
We thank you for your courage and support.

Sincerely,

William T. Newkirk
Associate Executive Director

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EDUCATIONAL SERVICE UNIT NO. 4

919-16th Street - P. O. Box 310

Auburn, Nebraska 68305

Telephone: 402-274-4354

Fax: 402-274-4356

Homepage: <http://esu6.esu6.k12.ne.us/esu4/table.html>

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April 2, 1997

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW, Room 844
Washington, DC 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am administrator of Educational Service Unit No. 4, serving the public schools in five Nebraska counties, and I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and educational consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our Service Unit is part of a 10 county consortium that is pioneering long distance learning in our area. For the 21 entities that will be on line by June 1997, this discount will be of considerable benefit. All of the school districts in this large area are already connected to Internet and will be able to further utilize the discounts.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Thank you.

Martin L. Heflebower, Ed.D.
Administrator

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CC96-45

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APR - 3 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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VF
304 Hudson Street, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10013
1 212 807 1400
1 212 463 8519 fax
aivf@nyc.rr.com

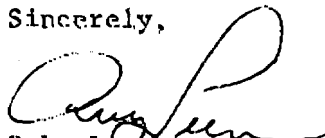
To: FCC Chairman Reed Hundt
From: Ruby Lerner
Executive Director
Association of Independent Video and Filmmakers

I am writing on behalf of the 5,000 independent media producers who are members of the Association. We urge you not to turn over new frequencies on the broadcast spectrum to existing station owners. This is PUBLIC space and we feel strongly that public interest considerations should weigh heavily in any ultimate decision. Since there has been little or no consumer education on this important issue, how can there even be informed public debate?

Please reconsider your decision, provide a period in which the public can be brought into a discussion about what it would like to see in its own media future.

Thank you. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of assistance.

Sincerely,


Ruby Lerner

cc: Susan Ness

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1

Lucy


Coronado

UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

555 D AVENUE • CORONADO, CALIFORNIA 92118-1799 • (619) 522-8900 • FAX (619) 435-4672

April 1, 1997

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Federal Communications Commission

1919 M Street, NW, Room 844

Washington, DC 20554

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APR 3 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chair

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong, Commissioner

The Honorable Susan Ness, Commissioner

The Honorable James Quello, Commissioner

RE: CC Docket No. 96-45

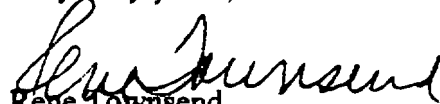
Dear Commissioner:

As Superintendent of the Coronado Unified School District, I would like to thank you for your dedication in ensuring that all school districts and education consortia will have affordable access to the Information Superhighway.

The Telecommunications Act and the Federal-State Joint Board decision will guarantee that all school districts will have the opportunity to connect to the Internet and provide distance-learning opportunities. The \$2.25 billion a year will address the needs of all our schools, and importantly, the plan will bring services directly to the classroom where students learn. Your inclusion of internal classroom connections for discounts is vital. This plan is essential for preparing the workforce of tomorrow.

Our students need deep discounts for telecommunications services this year. I urge the FCC to fully support of the Joint Board's discount plan for universal service for schools.

Very truly yours,



Rene Townsend

Superintendent of Schools

RT:mn

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